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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 93 LCM-83

Date: July 16, 1993

Division: Commissioner's
Office

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: 1994-95 DSS Budget

ATTACHMENTS: None

This year the planning of the DSS 1994-95 budget will be based upon six Departmental priorities which will be the basis of all our fiscal and legislative initiatives for next year. I wish to obtain your support and ideas on the development of the initiatives which should flow from these priorities.

The following are the six priorities which I have asked our staff to use in planning next year's budget:

1. JOBS: Increasing Labor Force Participation

The goal of our efforts in education, training, and the provision of support services should be geared toward assuring that each client gets and keeps a job. We should seek to expand CAP and look for ways to restructure public assistance benefits while providing work incentives.

2. Family Preservation: Keeping Families Together and Reducing Out-of-Home Placement

We should analyze our efforts to keep families together and to find ways to improve our investment in this area. Where feasible, we should combine our efforts with those of other agencies and make certain that we target our services to provide the maximum benefit.

3. Implement the Neighborhood Based Alliance Initiative

Our State's NBA Program has special benefits as a means of services' integration and funding simplification. We must assist local districts, community providers and NBA agencies in implementing this new approach to community-level service provision.

4. Reform the Homeless Shelter System

We must expand our prevention programs and restructure our funding so that important service needs of the homeless (substance abuse and mental illness) are more appropriately addressed. We must also evaluate our various approaches to provide shelters for the homeless to determine the most effective approaches to this problem.

5. Improve Health Care Outcomes by Expanding Managed Care

We have made substantial progress in this area but we need to intensify our efforts. We must position ourselves to be able to take advantage of all the health care reforms that are going on around us. The needs of the special care populations will require extra attention and must be addressed swiftly.

6. Continue Management and Operational Improvements

The fiscal climate will not appreciably improve and the demands for accountability will not lessen. We must, therefore, find every way to reduce inefficiencies, focus our priorities, continue to improve our working relationship with the various constituencies and increase revenues.

Our budget submission will be based on a series of high priority budgetary and legislative initiatives designed to support these priorities. I would welcome your ideas for such initiatives. The ideas need not be elaborate or completely detailed. Whatever details you can provide would be helpful, however. We would especially welcome ideas for saving funds, containing the growth of costs, or improving administrative efficiencies.

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The schedule for the development and submission of the Department's budget is very short and requires that we prepare our specific budgetary priorities within the next few weeks. In order to meet our deadline, I request that you send your ideas by Friday July 30th to our Office of Policy Management via electronic mail (Userid 0IR010) or mail to:

Mark Lewis
Director
Office of Policy Management
NYS Department of Social Services
40 No. Pearl Street (16th Floor)
Albany, NY 12243

You may also, if you wish, present your ideas at the local Commissioners meeting scheduled for 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, July 21st, at the NYPWA Conference. Unfortunately, because of a commitment in Washington, D.C., I will be unable to attend that meeting, but Greg Kaladjian will be available to talk with you at that time.

Michael J. Dowling
Commissioner